Alleged irregularity in the payment of the Moir causeway contract.

*1431-B Q.—Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the contractor who carried out the repairs to the Moir causeway at Uttukottai has been fully paid the whole amount due to him including his security;

(b) whether it is usual to retain 10 per cent of deposit money in such contracts; and

(c) if so, why in this case it was paid contrary to rules?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) & (c) There are several forms in which securities can be taken from contractors for the due performance of contracts and the deduction of 10 per cent from the monthly payments made on account of work done is one of them. The Government have no information regarding the practice in the district.

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a) of this question, may I say that the question was sent to the Council on the 1st . . ."

The hon. the President:—"The hon. Member cannot make a statement now. He will kindly resume his seat."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed:—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether he will call for the information and place it on the table of the House?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I do not think there is any necessity to call for the information."

Proposed bifurcation of the Hosur Taluk Board.

*1432 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was or is any proposal before the Government to bifurcate the Hosur Taluk Board and if so at what stage the proposal stands at present;

(b) whether the taluk board of Hosur had or has at any time passed resolution urging the bifurcation of the taluk board; and

(c) if so, what action was taken by the Government and the reasons for that course of action?

A.—(a) & (c) There was a proposal to divide the taluk board into two. The Government vetoed it in June 1928.

(b) Yes.

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed:—"May I know whether there were any substantial reasons for vetoing the proposal?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"The proposal was vetoed because the Local Boards Amendment Act was still under consideration."